MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

JUNE '96 10

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ONLY 99¢

CONQUERED BY COMMANDA™

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY STARTING TO GET THE **HANG** OF THIS **SUPER HERO** THING.

I FIND A CROOK, SNAP A FEW **PIX** TO SELL TO THE BUGLE, **TRUSS** HIM UP... AND GO ON TO THE **NEXT** ONE.

IT'S JUST NOT ALL THAT **HARD**, NOT FOR AN EXPERIENCED GUY LIKE ME.

TAKE THIS SCENARIO. PENTHOUSE DOORS OPEN, GUARDS UNCONSCIOUS -- AN **OBVIOUS** BREAK-IN.

I COULD SEE IT FROM **BLOCKS** AWAY.

THAT'S **MISTAKE #1** THE GUY NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE FROM **ABOVE.**

BUT THAT'S **NOT MY PROBLEM.**

I JUST SET MY TRUSTY **AUTOMATIC** CAMERA --

-- AND GIVE SOME **POOR SAP** THE JOLT OF HIS **LIFE.**

HI THERE, FELLA -- AND WELCOME TO THE **BIG APPLE!**

YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET AN **AUTHENTIC** NEW YORK EXPERIENCE--

-- GETTING CAPTURED BY THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE **AMAZING** S --

-- uh?!

CALL HER...

COMMANDA!

MA FOI.

IT SEEMS I HAVE A... *GENTLEMAN CALLER.*

*THE PAPERS SAID THERE WAS A DARING INTERNATIONAL **JEWEL THIEF** IN TOWN -- "THE **SCOURGE** OF EUROPEAN HIGH SOCIETY," THEY SAID --*

*-- AND THEY ALSO MENTIONED THE THIEF HAD BEEN STRIKING MOSTLY ALONG **PARK AVENUE**. THAT'S WHAT GAVE ME THE IDEA TO SWING BY.*

*THEY **DIDN'T** MENTION THAT SHE WAS A **SHE**.*

*OR THAT SHE'S... SHE'S **SO**...*

...AND HER ARMOR'S SO...SO...

...FLEXIBLE...

A TALE OF **TROUBLE** & **TEMPTATION**

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I, Um I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *TAKE* YOU *IN*, MISS... Uh, MADAME... Uh...

MY NAME IS *COMMANDA*. AND I KNOW WHO *YOU* ARE, OF COURSE.

BUT I MUST CONFESS TO SOME *SURPRISE*. I NEVER THOUGHT YOUR VOICE WOULD BE SO... *STRONG*, SO *MASCULINE*...

*SHE CAN'T BE **SERIOUS**. MY VOICE IS CRACKING LIKE I WAS STILL **FOURTEEN** --*

Uh... YOU REALLY *THINK* SO?

BUT OF *COURSE*. BUT HERE -- WE NEEDN'T BE SO *FORMAL*. LET ME SHIFT INTO SOMETHING MORE *SOCIABLE*...

*-- AND HERS -- HERS IS LOW AND **THROATY**, AND SHE DOES SOMETHING TO HER **ARMOR**, AND...*

WELL, THAT'S NICE...

...BUT I'M *STILL* GONNA HAVE TO...

YIKES!

ZAK

ZAK

ZAK

*THOSE **FLYING GIZMOS**! IF MY SPIDER-SENSE HADN'T **WARNED** ME --!*

Hmm. *FORMIDABLE* REFLEXES, SPIDER-MAN...

...BUT YOU CANNOT DODGE *MES PETITES* -- MY DRONES -- *FOREVER!*

Oh, *YEAH?* LOOK, LADY, YOU MAY BE *GORGEOUS* AND *CLEVER* AND ALL THAT --

-- BUT YOU'RE STILL *NEW* IN TOWN, AND IT *SHOWS!*

I COULD KEEP *THIS* UP ALL NI --

KLIK KLIK KLIK

SLAMM

UHH!

OKAY -- OWTCH! -- *OKAY!*

SO MAYBE THOSE THINGS HAVE A FEW TRICKS I DON'T *KNOW* ABOUT --

ZAK

-- BUT I'M STILL SMART ENOUGH TO *IGNORE* THEM --

-- AND GO AFTER THE MIND THAT'S *CONTROLLING* THEM!

KRAK

I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THE FACE I'M HITTING -- NOT THAT THE PUNCH ACCOMPLISHES ANYTHING.

YOU ARE A *BRUTE,* SPIDER-MAN --

-- TO STRIKE A WOMAN LIKE THAT!

YEAH, WELL, SORRY. MY KNUCKLES ARE ALREADY REGRETTING IT!

I NOTICED SHE GLOWED FOR A MOMENT WHEN I SWUNG AT HER, I GOTTA CHECK THAT OUT --

DO NOT DERANGE YOURSELF, SPIDER-MAN.

KS

OOPS!

CLUMSY ME! HEADS UP, COMMANDA!

KS

YEP.

SHE'S GOT A FORCE-FIELD, CONTROLLED BY THAT GEM ON HER TIARA --

-- AND WHILE IT'S ON --

WOWP!

I'LL SAY THIS FOR THESE LITTLE GUYS -- THEY'RE FAST --

-- AND THEY'RE ***STRONG*** --!

CAN'T... BREATHE...

IT IS A PITY YOU ARE SO ***NAIVE,*** SPIDER-MAN -- RISKING YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT THE PROPERTY OF ***OTHERS.***

OTHERWISE, YOU ARE ***CAPABLE*** AND ***RESOURCEFUL...***

...AND WE COULD HAVE SHARED SOMETHING, ADVENTURER TO ADVENTURER... AND ***WOMAN*** TO ***MAN!***

AS IT IS, THOUGH...

AS IT ***IS*** --

THWIP

-- I FAKED YOU OUT ***GOOD!***

YOUR ***TIARA*** SEEMS TO CONTROL BOTH YOUR FORCE-FIELD AND YOUR DRONES -- SO ***WITHOUT*** IT --

KRAK

AHP--!

UHH!

NO!

IF I'VE ***HURT*** HER --

*GEEZ, LISTEN TO ME. A FEW MINUTES AGO I TRIED TO HIT HER IN THE **FACE!** AND IF THIS WAS **DOC OCK** I WAS FIGHTING --*

*-- WELL, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHETHER HE BANGED HIS **HEAD** A LITTLE.*

BEST TO JUST GRAB HER, DROP HER OFF WITH THE COPS, JUST LIKE ANYBODY --

-- BUT STILL --

-- DOC OCK DOESN'T HAVE SKIN THIS SMOOTH, EITHER --

Uh, COMMANDA? YOU'RE UNDER ARREST AND ALL, BUT, uh --

SNEK

-- CAN YOU STAND BY YOUR-SELF --?

ZZAAK

IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED, SPIDER-MAN --

-- THAT THIS IS NOT A GAME FOR LITTLE BOYS!

uh...

uh...

FOR A MINUTE, ALL I CAN SEE IS FIRE AND LIGHTNING --

-- AND WHEN IT FADES --

SHE'S GONE!

BOY, DO I FEEL LIKE A CHUMP.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

-- ROBBED THE **FIRST DENVER NATIONAL BANK** LAST NIGHT. THIS MAKES **FOUR** WESTERN CITIES IN WHICH DR. OCTOPUS HAS BEEN **SPOTTED.**

IN OTHER NEWS, TONIGHT IS THE LAST NIGHT THAT THE **CRIMSON HEART,** THE WORLD'S LARGEST RUBY --

-- WILL BE ON DISPLAY ALONG WITH OTHER GEMS AND TREASURES AT THE **HOTEL IMPERIAL...**

WELL, ISN'T THAT **NICE.** NEWS OF A **CULTURAL EXHIBIT,** INSTEAD OF ALL THAT CRIME AND VIOLENCE. ISN'T THAT **RELAXING,** PETER?

SURE, AUNT MAY. I GUESS...

WOULDN'T YOU **KNOW** IT?

OF **COURSE** THEY MAKE A BIG NOISE ABOUT A PRICELESS GEM WHILE THERE'S A **JEWEL THIEF** ON THE LOOSE. THAT'S JUST THE WAY MY LIFE **WORKS!**

OF COURSE, SHE'D BE IN **JAIL** NOW, IF I HADN'T LET HER PLAY ME LIKE SOME...LIKE SOME **ADOLESCENT KID!**

WHICH IS WHAT I **AM,** TRUE, BUT...

...THAT "LITTLE **BOYS**" CRACK STILL STINGS!

YAAWN

ARE YOU **ALL RIGHT,** PETER? YOU STAY UP SO **LATE,** AND THEN YOU'RE UP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN...

IT'S OKAY, AUNT MAY. I DON'T PLAN TO MAKE A **HABIT** OF THIS --

" -- I JUST NEED TO DEVELOP SOME PHOTOS FOR THE BUGLE..."

OKAY, COMMANDA -- LET'S SEE WHAT WE **GOT.**

HOPE THE CAMERA CAPTURED YOUR **GOOD** S --

AW, **NUTS!**

HER FACE IS OBSCURED IN **EVERY SHOT!** ALMOST AS IF THOSE DRONES OF HERS **KNEW** THE CAMERA WAS THERE AND WERE DELIBERATELY **BLOCKING** IT!

OH WELL -- MAYBE I CAN STILL SELL 'EM TO A CERTAIN IRASCIBLE **NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER** --

-- IF I GIVE HIM THE RIGHT PITCH --

I DON'T **KNOW,** PARKER. I PAY FOR **CLEAR** PHOTOS -- I'VE GOT NO USE FOR ARTY, **EXPERIMENTAL** STUFF.

THESE LOOK LIKE YOU TOOK THEM WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING THROUGH THE **VIEW-FINDER!**

THINK OF IT AS A **CIRCULATION BOOSTER,** Mr. JAMESON!

SHE'S A **MYSTERY WOMAN,** RIGHT? AND YOU CAN'T SEE HER **FACE,** RIGHT?

SO YOU RUN A BIG HEADLINE -- **"WHO IS THE MYSTERY CAT BURGLAR?"** IT'S LIKE A **PUZZLE** -- IT MAKES PEOPLE CURIOUS --

-- AND **CURIOUS** PEOPLE BUY **PAPERS!**

AND JUST OUTSIDE...

I'M **SORRY,** MISS, BUT IT'S NOT OUT POLICY TO GIVE OUT THE NAMES OF OUR FREELANCE PHOTOG-RAPHERS...

AW, C'MON -- IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ASKING FOR THE KEYS TO **FORT KNOX!** I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHO TAKES THOSE GREAT **SPIDER-MAN** PICTURES...

ALL RIGHT, PARKER, **ALL RIGHT!** BUT ONLY BECAUSE **SPIDER-MAN'S** IN A FEW OF THE SHOTS -- AND I'LL ONLY PAY **HALF-PRICE,** AT THAT!

YOU KNOW WHAT, Mr. J? I **ACCEPT** -- BUT IT'S ONLY 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A **SOFT-HEARTED PUSSYCA** --

-- huh?

LOOK, I CAN **HANG AROUND** IN FRONT OF YOUR BUILDING, ASKING ANYONE WHO COMES OUT WITH A **CAMERA** --

SALLY AVRIL?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

PETER! PETER PARKER!

HOLY CROW -- WHAT THAT GUY JUST SAID --

PETER, YOU'VE BEEN TAKING PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN -- AND YOU NEVER TOLD ANYONE?!

DAILY BUGLE
DR. OCTOPUS ESCAPES FROM SPIDER-MAN!

DO YOU KNOW THIS GIRL, PETER?

Uh, SURE -- BETTY BRANT, THIS IS SALLY AVRIL. SHE'S IN MY CLASS AT SCHOOL.

LOOK BETTY -- I DIDN'T GET AS MUCH FOR THOSE PHOTOS AS I HOPED, AND WE'VE GOT THE MORTGAGE DUE SOON. IS IT OKAY IF..?

YOU WANT TO CANCEL OUR DATE TONIGHT? THAT'S OKAY --

-- YOU PROBABLY NEED TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUR SCHOOL FRIENDS, ANYWAY.

AW, BETTY, THAT'S NOT --

COME ON, PETER -- WE'VE GOT TO BE AT SCHOOL IN HALF AN HOUR!

WHY DON'T WE CATCH THE SUBWAY TOGETHER? WE CAN TALK ON THE WAY.

YES, WHY DON'T YOU?

TAKA TAKA

BUT, BETTY --

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, SALLY DOES MOST OF THE TALKING...

YOU'VE BEEN TAKING NEWS PHOTOS SINCE THE VULTURE FIRST SHOWED UP? BUT THAT'S BEEN MONTHS AND MONTHS!

HONESTLY, I HAD NO IDEA --!

ACTUALLY, SALLY, I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU WOULDN'T TELL ANYONE ELSE.

THINGS WERE GOING ALONG FINE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING, AND -- WELL, I'D JUST RATHER IT NOT BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE, OKAY?

REALLY? THAT'S... INTER-ESTING...

SOMETHING IN HER TONE WORRIES ME...

...BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT. I'M TOO BUSY WORRYING ABOUT BETTY... ABOUT WHY SHE WAS ACTING SO ODD.

HER BROTHER WAS ONE OF BLACKIE GAXTON'S LAWYERS, AND GAXTON WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH OCK. BUT WHILE I WAS TRYING TO CATCH THEM BOTH...

BENNETT!

BLAM

IT'S YOUR FAULT! IF YOU HADN'T INTERFERED...

...I HATE YOU, DO YOU HEAR... I HATE YOU!

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT RECENTLY...

...SINCE SHE GOT MIXED UP WITH DR. OCTOPUS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP HER BROTHER, BENNETT.

...BENNETT WAS KILLED.

SHE TOLD ME LATER SHE COULDN'T REALLY BLAME SPIDER-MAN... THOUGH SHE NEVER WANTS TO SEE HIM AGAIN. SHE WAS JUST DISTRAUGHT...

...AND UNDERSTANDABLY SO. BUT THAT SHOULDN'T MAKE HER MAD AT ME AS PETER...

AND IT CAN'T BE SALLY -- SHE'S GOT NO REASON TO BE JEALOUS OF SALLY.

STILL, IT MUST BE SOMETHING...

I'M NO CLOSER TO AN ANSWER WHEN WE GET TO SCHOOL...

HI, GANG!

NOBODY'S SEEN HIM FOR *DAYS!* IT'S NOT LIKE TINY'S BEEN SICK OR ANYTHING...

WELL, HE *DID* BREAK HIS ARM...

BUT THAT WOULDN'T KEEP HIM OUT OF *SCHOOL.*

I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG...

AW, YOU KNOW TINY. I'M SURE HE'S *FINE.*

BUT *HEY,* LIZ -- I SAW YOUR *DAD* ON TV THIS MORNING...

...TALKING ABOUT THAT *JEWELRY EXHIBIT* AT HIS HOTEL!

SURE MUST BE NICE TO RUB ELBOWS WITH THE *JET SET...*

WELL...

...BEING A HOTEL OWNER'S DAUGHTER DOESN'T ACTUALLY INVOLVE A LOT OF *ELBOW- RUBBING.* BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE *EXHIBIT...*

...I THINK I COULD TALK MY DAD INTO GIVING US A *PRIVATE TOUR...*

THAT'D BE SO *COOL!* WE'LL *ALL* GO!

Uh, LIZ?

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, *I'D* LIKE TO COME ALONG, TOO.

PARKER? WHY WOULD WE WANT A BOOKWORM LIKE HIM ALONG?

AW, HE PROBABLY THINKS IT SOUNDS LIKE A *MUSEUM* OR SOMETHING -- HE WANTS TO GO 'CAUSE IT'S *EDUCATIONAL!*

SURE, PETER -- THAT'D BE *FINE.*

THANKS, LIZ...

"...I'LL EVEN DO MY BEST TO STAY ***QUIET,*** SO FLASH AND JASON DON'T RUN THE RISK OF ACTUALLY ***LEARNING*** SOMETHING..!"

AND THE ***CRIMSON HEART'S*** RIGHT OVER HERE...

...***IMPRESSIVE,*** ISN'T IT?

A LOT OF OUR GUESTS HAVE ***EXPENSIVE JEWELRY,*** BUT INSTEAD OF JUST KEEPING IT IN A ***HOTEL SAFE*** --

-- I'VE TURNED THIS WHOLE ROOM INTO A ***HIGH-SECURITY VAULT,*** SO THAT PEOPLE CAN ***ENJOY*** THE TREASURES WHILE THEY'RE HERE --

-- BUT THEY ***STILL*** STAY PERFECTLY SAFE!

ASIDE FROM THE VISIBLE ***SECURITY APPARATUS*** YOU SEE AROUND YOU --

-- WE'VE GOT A NETWORK OF ***PHOTOELECTRONIC BEAMS, PRESSURE SENSORS*** AND ***MORE,*** MAKING THE WHOLE PLACE BURGLAR-PROOF!

*WHILE Mr. ALLAN EXTOLS THE VIRTUES OF HIS **SECURITY SYSTEM,** I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ONE PIECE OF IT --*

-- ***THE SKYLIGHT.***

*LOOKS LIKE IT CAN BE **DISENGAGED** FROM THE SYSTEM, BUT ONLY FROM THE **CONTROL PANEL,** WHICH MAKES ME THINK --*

HEY, WHERE'S ***PARKER?***

DON'T TELL ME HE CHICKENED OUT!

HI GUYS!

IT, Ah, GOT A LITTLE STUFFY -- SO I WENT OUT TO GET SOME ***AIR.***

SHEESH! HE'S SUCH A SISSY, HE'S EVEN SCARED OF ***JEWELRY!***

YOU MIGHT ***NOT*** SAY THAT, FLASH...

...NOT IF YOU KNEW WHAT ***I*** KNOW...

*I DON'T LIKE THE **SOUND** OF THAT...*

...BUT WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? I GO HOME, AND I WAIT -- UNTIL DARK, AND UNTIL THE EXHIBIT ROOM IS CLOSED...

NOW!

GO, MA PETITE --

-- GO AND DO WHAT YOUR MISTRESS REQUIRES!

BRREEP

Huh?

WHAT THE SAM --

HIAIKKH!

ZZAAKT

SO.

ALL I NEED TO DO NOW IS CREATE A STAIRWAY TO AVOID THE *PRESSURE SENSORS* --

-- DUCK BETWEEN THE *PHOTOELETRIC BEAMS* --

-- AND BEFORE THE *TEMPERATURE SENSORS* CAN REACT --

ZZAAKT

IT IS *DONE!*

NO, COMMANDA --

QUOI?!

-- I'D SAY IT'S JUST *BEGINNING!*

I FIGURED SHE'D TURN OFF THE WHOLE SYSTEM, JUST IN CASE THERE WAS PART OF IT SHE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.

THAT AUTOMATICALLY UNLOCKED THE SKYLIGHT--

Ah. THE *LITTLE BOY.*

-- *AND LET YOURS TRULY IN!*

FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT IT WAS AN *ACTUAL THREAT.*

DEAL WITH HIM, MY DRONES -- I HAVE NOT THE TIME TO *WASTE!*

FIRST OFF, COMMANDA, I'M *NOT* A LITTLE BOY --

-- NOT THAT IT MAKES A *DIFFERENCE!*

YOU MAY BE GORGEOUS AND SMART AND SOPHISTICATED AND SNEAKY --

-- BUT THIS *"LITTLE BOY"* CAN *STILL* KEEP YOU TANGLED UP HERE *LONG ENOUGH* --

-- FOR SOMEONE TO HEAR THE FUSS AND CALL THE *COPS* --

-- AND THEN YOU'RE CAUGHT JUST AS SURELY AS IF I WAS SOME BIG, BRAWNY, RESPECTABLE ***HUNK!***

YOU MAY WELL BE ***RIGHT.*** PERHAPS I HAVE ***UNDER-ESTIMATED*** YOU --

-- PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT SO MUCH YOUNG AS MERELY... RAW AND UNTUTORED...

IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE A MUTUAL ***PROBLEM.*** PERHAPS WE CAN REACH A MUTUAL... ***ACCOMMODATION...***

WHAT DO YOU ***MEAN?***

WELL...

...LET'S ***TALK.***

AI YI YI.

YOU COULD POSSIBLY CAUSE ME SOME ***INCONVENIENCE***... I COULD POSSIBLY ***KILL*** YOU. BUT THAT DOES ***NEITHER*** OF US ANY GOOD.

I HAVE NEED OF AN ***ASSISTANT***... WELL, MORE OF A ***PARTNER,*** ACTUALLY.

A ***STUDENT*** TO WHOM I COULD TEACH..

...***EVERYTHING*** I KNOW...

WOULDN'T FABULOUS WEALTH, LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS AND AN ABSOLUTELY ***DECADENT*** LIFESTYLE BE MORE FUN THAN...

...THAN WHATEVER YOUR LIFE CONSISTS OF ***NOW..?***

Um, WELL... THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN TERRIBLY ***EASY*** FOR ME, NO.

AND IT ***WOULD*** BE NICE TO RELAX...

VERY WELL THEN.

H-HEY!

RELAX. I HAVE NO NEED TO SEE YOUR ***REAL FACE.***

I JUST WISH TO ***SEAL*** OUR AGREEMENT...

...WITH A...

GOTCHA!

Eh --?!

CLAK

TAK

KRAK

KSSH

HAH! WHO'S VAMPING *WHO*, LADY?!

YOU'VE BEEN ***SEDUCING*** ANYONE WHO GETS IN YOUR WAY FOR SO LONG THAT YOU THOUGHT A KID LIKE ME WOULD BE A ***COMPLETE PUSHOVER!***

BUT YOU TRICKED ME ***ONCE*** -- YOU ***DON'T*** TRICK ME TWICE!

SO WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY TO YOUR *"LITTLE BOY"* ***NOW***, *huh?*

WHAT DO I ***SAY?*** WHAT DO I ***SAY!***

NOTHING MORE THAN --

AU SECOURS! THIEF! ROBBERY! MURDER!

HELP ME, SOMEBODY -- OH PLEASE, HELP --!

H-huh?

WHAT IN THE *WORLD?* LADY *CATHERINE!*

Oh, M'SIEU ALLAN -- *SAVE* ME!

I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE -- I FEARED FOR THOSE FEW GEMS OF MINE I'D *STORED* WITH YOU -- AND THEN I FOUND THE GUARD SO *UNMOVING* --

-- SO I DARED TO LOOK, AND FOUND -- THIS *PERSON* -- !

WAIT A MINUTE... SHE'S A *GUEST* AT THE HOTEL?

SHE'S GOT *GEMS* HERE?

I DON'T *GET* IT...

RELAX, LADY CATHERINE. I MUST SAY, I NEVER *BELIEVED* THE BUGLE WHEN THEY SAID SPIDER-MAN WAS A *COMMON CRIMINAL* --

-- BUT IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO CONCERN YOURSELF OVER. I'LL KEEP EXTRA GUARDS ON DUTY UNTIL THE SECURITY SYSTEM CAN BE RESTORED --

-- AND IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T WE LET THE GUARDS DEAL WITH HIM --

"-- WHILE I GET YOU A *COGNAC* TO SETTLE YOUR NERVES --?"

FREEZE! BLAST YOU, I SAID *FREEZE!*

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

TRY TO *WING* HIM, JAKE! THEY'LL WANT HIM FOR *QUESTIONING!*

YOW!

SHE GETS *BRANDY* --

-- AND I GET A HAIL OF *BULLETS?* THIS IS *SO* NOT FAIR!

I TELL MYSELF I WON -- EVEN IF IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT.

THE CRIMSON HEART'S LEAVING TOWN TOMORROW MORNING, ALONG WITH ITS OWNER --

-- AND WITH THE BEEFED-UP SECURITY, SHE WON'T HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE AT IT!

STILL, SHE TRUMPED MY FAKE-OUT, FAKED ME OUT AND GOT AWAY CLEAN, WHICH REALLY SMARTS.

BUT WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SHE'LL TRY SOMETHING ELSE, AND WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

THAT COULD BE... AN INTERESTING PROSPECT...

I'M SORRY, DEARS, BUT HE'S NOT HOME YET. SOMETIMES HE STUDIES UNTIL ALL HOURS AT THE LIBRARY...

I'LL BET HE DOES. THANKS, Mrs. PARKER!

PARKER! HE'S A GEEK, SALLY -- A LOSER! IS HE REALLY NECESSARY TO THIS IDEA OF YOURS?

Oh, YES...

...YES, HE'S ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL!

NEXT: A DOUBLE SHOCKER!

ELECTRO! THE EEL!

AND JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE, SALLY'S BIG PLAN!

WHATEVER YOU DO TIGER -- DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE!